



Naval Station Ingleside

March 7, 2005

Final crew returns home

Mine Warfare crews ‘swap’ vessels

MHC Crew Prestige Sailors returned from a 6-month deployment on March 6. This was the final crew swap set to occur this Spring. The 50-man crew left South Texas in August and had been embarked aboard USS Raven (MHC 61) forward deployed in the Arabian Gulf.

These Sailors are part of Mine Warfare Command’s crew swap initiative. Crews manning ships in Ingleside “swapped” with those manning ships forward-deployed in Bahrain. This initiative increases the Navy’s forward presence by keeping a single ship hull continuously present in a given area of operations, while swapping crews at six-month intervals. It increases the on-station time for the ship without extending deployments for crewmembers; and, it saves wear and tear on the ship, weeks of transit time and more efficiently uses available resources.

The “swaps” that occurred this Spring are:

MCM Crew Bulwark relieved Sailors on board USS Ardent (MCM 12). Sailors who were embarked on Ardent – MCM Crew Conflict – returned to Ingleside Feb. 21.

Sailors from MHC Crew Valor relieved Sailors on board USS Cardinal (MHC 60). Sailors who were embarked on Cardinal -- MHC Crew Aggressive -- returned to Ingleside Feb. 24.

MCM Crew Swerve relieved Sailors on USS Dextrous (MCM 13). Sailors who were embarked on Dextrous -- MCM Crew Fearless -- returned to Ingleside Feb. 28.

Sailors from MHC Crew Inflict relieved Sailors on board USS Raven (MHC 62). Sailors who were embarked on Raven -- MHC Crew Prestige -- returned to Ingleside March 6.